

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 03214 240749Z

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

-----034964 240750Z /11

P R 240655Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9126

INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

CONFIDENTIAL ADDIS ABABA 3214

EXDIS

SECSTATE FOR HARROP

RABAT FOR ASST SECY MOOSE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PBOR, MASS, ET, SO, SA

SUBJ: POSSIBLE ETHIOPIAN ATTACK ON SOMALIA

REF: STATE 185970

SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR PRESENTED POINTS REFTEL TO MOFA  
AMERICAS DIVISION DIRECTOR AND REQUESTED HIM TO TRANSMIT  
THEM TO ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER AND CHAIRMAN MENGISTU.

END SUMMARY.

1. DEEPLY APPRECIATE EXCELLENT TALKING POINTS REFTEL.  
CONVEYED THEM TO DIRECTOR AMERICAS DIVISION AT LUNCHEON  
JULY 23, WHEN HOST, ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER, FAILED TO  
APPEAR BECAUSE HE WAS STILL AT LUNCHEON WITH PRESIDENT  
NYERERE. I OPENED BY NOTING THAT CHAIRMAN MENGISTU HAD  
NOT MENTIONED OGADEN OR SOMALIA WHEN I HAD PRESENTED  
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PAGE 02 ADDIS 03214 240749Z

CREDENTIALS. I HAD FEW BRIEF POINTS WHICH MY GOVERNMENT  
REQUESTED ME TO MAKE TO ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER. BERHANE  
ASKED WHETHER I WOULD HAVE MADE THEM TO CHAIRMAN, HAD HE  
RAISED ISSUE, AND, ENLARGING ON MY INSTRUCTIONS, I SAID  
YES. GAVE BERHANE DERESSE COPY TALKING POINTS IN ORDER  
THAT THEY MIGHT BE ACCURATELY REFLECTED TO CHAIRMAN MEN-  
GISTU. BERHANE SAID I COULD STILL MAKE THEM ORALLY TO

ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER WHEN I SAW HIM AT HIS REQUEST  
(ADDIS ABABA 3179).

2. BERHANE DERESSE'S REACTION WAS CAUTIOUS. HE SAID POSITION WAS "ALL RIGHT." HE SAID US CAUTIONED ETHIOPIA PUBLICLY TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT BUT DID NOT SAY ANYTHING PUBLICLY ABOUT SOMALIA. I COUNTERED THAT THIS WAS PRIVATE POSITION AND EMPHASIZED THAT FROM ETHIOPIAN STANDPOINT, "INVASION" AND VERB "DEPLORED," WHICH WAS VERY STRONG IN US DIPLOMATIC PARLANCE, SHOULD PLEASE CHAIRMAN. BERHANE CAVILLED OVER USE OF WORD RETALIATION, AND I REMARKED THAT THIS HAD LONG HISTORY IN INTERNATIONAL LAW IN SITUATIONS OF UNDECLARED WAR.

3. BERHANE ASKED ABOUT MILITARY SURVEY TEAM, AND I REPLIED THAT IT HAD NOT LEFT US, WHICH WAS ALL I COULD SAY.

4. WHILE FULLY IN AGREEMENT WITH MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY RE MILITARY SURVEY TEAM, I BELIEVE WE WILL EVENTUALLY HAVE TO DEVELOP MORE PRECISE GUIDANCE FOR US CONCERNING THIS ISSUE THAN WHAT WE HAVE AT HAND.

CHAPIN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** COMBAT OPERATIONS  
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**Decapton Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decapton Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**TAGS:** PINS, PBOR, MASS, ET, SO, SA  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014